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Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

Signatur:

Datum: 1. Oktober 1918

Vossische Zeitung

Nr. 504

Ein Kabinett Key Hara in Japan.

Drahtmeldung.

London, 30. September.

Reuter erfährt, daß das neue japanische Kabinett unter dem Ministerpräsidenten Key Hara, dem Führer der Sei-Yu-Kai-Partei, gebildet wurde. Minister des Aeußeren ist Viscount Uchida, Kriegsminister General Tanaka. Admiral Kato behält das Marineportefeuille.

Key Hara, der im 65. Lebensjahre steht, ist vom Januar 1906 bis Juli 1908 (unter dem Ministerpräsidenten Sajonji) Minister des Innern gewesen. Er war Journalist und hat sich vom Redakteur zum Minister emporgearbeitet. Key Hara, der auch in Paris studiert hat, begann seine journalistische Tätigkeit an der „Hoch Shimbun“. Als Graf Inoue im Jahre 1884 nach Korea entsandt wurde, begleitete er diesen als Zeitungskorrespondent. Später wurde Key Hara Direktor der Handelsabteilung des Auswärtigen Amtes und im Jahre 1895 Vizeminister des Aeußeren. Im folgenden Jahre zum Gesandten in Korea ernannt, entsagte Key Hara diesem Amt bald wieder, kehrte zum Journalismus zurück und gab die Zeitung „Osaka Mainichi“ heraus. Marquis Ito berief ihn als Verkehrsminister in sein Kabinett, worauf er, wie schon erwähnt, unter Ministerpräsident Sajonji (später Minister des Innern) wurde. Key hat 1889 und 1909 Berlin besucht.

The Japan Advertiser (Tokio)

Nr. 9658

HARA'S FIRST WORK
IN NEWSPAPER PLANT

Takashi Hara was 65 years old. He was born in Morioka on February 2, 1856, the son of a retainer of the daimyo of Nambu. He was born a commoner and remained a commoner all his life, although more than once titles have been ordered him. It was in the days before Japan had public schools, and his early education was from private teachers from the neighborhood, as good as the limited finances of his family permitted. He came to Tokyo as a young man to seek his fortune, working at whatever he could and completing his education as best he might.

He turned to journalism when journalism was still in its infancy in Japan, joining the staff of the Hochi. He followed Marquis Inouye to Korea as a newspaper correspondent in 1882 when Inouye was sent as special envoy. Later he became an official in the Foreign Office. He was consul in Tientsin, then secretary and charge d'affaires in Paris. There followed a few years of service in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, rising to be Vice-Minister of that department in 1895. In the following year he was Minister to Korea and in 1897 he left official life to return to journalism as chief editor of the Osaka Mainichi.

When Prince Ito launched the Seiyukai party in 1900, Mr. Hara was his right hand man, which he continued to be as long as Ito retained the leadership of the party. The title of leadership of the party fell to Prince Saionji after it was relinquished by Ito, but Hara has been the actual chief of the party for more than a decade. He filled his first cabinet post in 1900, when he was named to succeed Hoshi as Minister of Communications. There was another interlude of journalism, as editor of the Osaka Shimpō, then a return to the cabinet, which he left with the fall of the Seiyukai Cabinet in 1908.

In that year and the following he visited the United States and Europe. His career for the next few years was uneventful, but he re-entered the Cabinet in 1913-14 as Minister of Home Affairs. In 1918, after the fall of the Terauchi Cabinet, he succeeded to the Premiership after it had been held temporarily by Prince Saionji for a brief period. He had been the head of the nation's government for more than three years when he was assassinated.

Mr. Hara is survived by his widow and his adopted son, Mr. Mitsugi Hara, a young man of 21, who left Japan two weeks ago on the liner Sardinia for England, where he intended to enter Cambridge University. A younger brother of the Premier also survives, besides numerous distant relatives.

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Key Hara

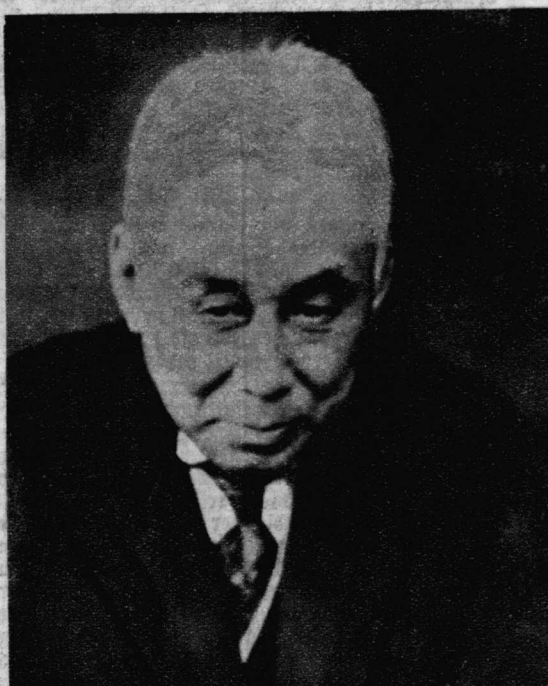
Signatur: *JP*

Datum: *9. Nov.* 1921

Hamburger Fremdenblatt

Nr. *508* vom 191.....

Minister Key Hara.



Der japanische Ministerpräsident,
früher Journalist, dann Direktor der Handelsabteilung
im japanischen auswärtigen Amt, ist ermordet worden.

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Hamburgisches
Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv

Signatur

Datum 11. April 1921

Kölnische Volkszeitung

Nr.

(22) Tatschi Hara.

Der Dolchstoß eines jungen Fanatikers hat dem Leben eines der befähigsten japanischen Staatsmänner ein vorzeitiges Ziel gesetzt. Der ermordete Ministerpräsident Hara hat eine für japanische Verhältnisse ungewöhnlich glänzende Laufbahn hinter sich. Er war der erste bürgerliche Premier Japans.

Geboren im Jahre 1856, trat er nach kurzen juristischen Studien in den Redaktionsstab der Großen Tokioter Tageszeitung Hochi Shimbun ein, in deren Auftrag er 1882 als Sonderkorrespondent in Korea tätig war. Darauf finden wir ihn im diplomatischen Dienst, und zwar zunächst im Auswärtigen Amt, dann als Konsul in Tientsin und schließlich als Sekretär und Geschäftsträger in Paris. Von 1892—1896 nahm Hara wieder leitende Posten im Auswärtigen Amt in Tokio ein, war von 1896 bis 1897 Minister in Korea und kehrte dann als Chefredakteur der Zeitung Mainichi in Osaka wieder zum Journalismus zurück.

Unter der Ministerpräsidentschaft des Fürsten Ito war Hara kurze Zeit Verkehrsminister (Ende 1900 bis Mai 1901). Ersterem leistete er wertvollste Dienste bei der Organisation der konservativen Seiyu-kai-Partei, in der er später selber die unbestrittene Führung erhielt. Fünf weitere Jahre waren wieder journalistischer und parlamentarischer Tätigkeit gewidmet. In der Zeit von 1906—1918 hat er mehreren Kabinetten als Innenminister angehört, bis er im letztgenannten Jahre als Nachfolger Terauchis selbst zur Führung der Staatsgeschäfte als Ministerpräsident berufen wurde. Hara schuf das erste Kabinett, das sich auf eine große Partei, nämlich die bereits erwähnte Seiyu-kai-Partei stützte. Er galt nach der Times als der fähigste Redner, den das japanische Parlament hervorgebracht hat.

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Von einem Missionar, der früher in Japan tätig war, wird uns zur Charakterisierung der Persönlichkeit Haras noch folgendes geschrieben:

Es dürfte interessieren zu erfahren, daß der ermordete japanische Ministerpräsident Hara der erste Katholik war, der diesen hohen Posten im Mikadoreiche bekleidete. In seiner Jugend schloß er sich gleich anderen jungen strebsamen Japanern einem Europäer an, um sich für Dienstleistungen in europäischen Sprachen und Verhältnissen unterrichten zu lassen. Hara hatte sich dem vor zwei Jahren in Yokohama verstorbenen Missionar Evrard aus dem Pariser Seminar angeschlossen und leistete ihm die Dienste eines Kochs und Laufburschen. Dafür erhielt er Unterricht in der französischen Sprache und in den christlichen Wahrheiten. Er empfing auch bald die hl. Taufe und dachte daran, sich dem Priesterstande zu widmen, um als Missionar an der Christianisierung seines Vaterlandes zu arbeiten. Diesen Plan gab er jedoch wieder auf und widmete sich einem praktischen Berufe.

Die guten Kenntnisse der französischen Sprache, die er sich im täglichen Verkehr mit P. Evrard erworben hatte, kamen ihm bei seinem Aufstieg sehr zu statten. Er betätigte sich zunächst als Übersetzer und Dolmetscher und wurde mit verschiedenen staatlichen Posten beauftragt, die ihn allmählich ins Ministerium führten. Als erster Bürgerlicher wurde er dann vor einigen Jahren zum Ministerpräsidenten ernannt. Leider machte er es wie so manche Emporkömmlinge in Japan, die ihre rechtmäßige Frau, weil sie aus niederer Herkunft ist, nicht mehr für ebenbürtig halten, sich von ihr trennen und eine andere heiraten. Aus diesem Grunde konnte Ministerpräsident Hara schon

Nr.

(42) Katafshi Hara.

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The Japan Advertiser (Tokio)

Nr. *9669*

"HARA, FIGHTING LIBERAL"

A Peking Editor's Survey of His Career.

From The Peking Leader

Ever since he came prominently into public life, it has been generally agreed that Mr. Takashi Hara, the murdered Premier of Japan, was a past master at the political game, and that he knew supremely well when to compromise. Usually such a reputation carries with it a popular conviction that the man in question is entirely without principles. This was not the case of Mr. Hara. Particularly since he became Premier, the feeling has been growing steadily in Japan that he was using all his political skill in the battle of forward-looking liberalism against the backward-looking and militaristic conservatives, and that he fought with a Toledo blade which would bend when compromise was necessary, but which did not break.

A character sketch of Mr. Hara which won a prize in the Yorodzu's contest last spring voices what was the general feeling about the Premier:

"With his position in society, he would have been able to amass fortune, if fortunes he desired. If he wanted to become a peer, he might have had a title conferred on him like Viscount Kato. But he has something at heart which he likes better than position or wealth. For the sake of that something, he is employing the wealth of others and commanding to his service those who hold high positions in society. Yet for himself he never looks to wealth or position, petty things. What is it then that he likes? It is embodied in the words: 'To win.'"

To win, that is, not so much for himself, though doubtless personal ambition played some part, as for the cause of liberalism.

The Patriots of Meiji.

He trod no rosy path. It is easy to criticize the men, most of whom are now dead, who, with Prince Yamagata, by setting up a strongly centralized Government under the control of a small group and based largely on the older military organization, accomplished the impossible in taking Japan from feudalism to modern times in half a century. It is easy, too, to point out that the aggressive policy which they pursued made Japan a menace in the Far East. But we need always to remember that these men were working not for themselves but for their country. Whatever fault we may find with their methods, we cannot impugn their sincere and devoted patriotism.

The difficulty is that they have not been able to catch the spirit of the newer day. Yet the prestige of their service to the nation remains, and with

it a large measure of actual control. This it is which makes the fight for liberalism in Japan peculiarly difficult—and peculiarly embarrassing. To criticize or oppose such a man as Prince Yamagata, with his long record of real and constructive service, is to appear unappreciative of that service and amazingly conceited in setting up one's own judgment against that of the wise Elder Statesman.

The Need for New Leaders.

Yet if Japan is not to be wrecked, if she is to make that contribution to international development of which she is capable, the battle must be fought. The alternative is for these men, the remnants of the militaristic group which carried Japan through splendidly for fifty years, and their children in the spirit, to step out now that their task of making Japan a first-class Power has been accomplished—as Washington stepped out when the United States was young. Of that last supreme service to their country these men have not shown themselves capable. Therefore it is incumbent upon those who have a more modern vision of what Japan's policies should be to force them if possible into the position which they will not take of their own volition.

Mr. Hara recognized this as his task. He became Premier by a notable bit of political maneuvering in which the one real liberal among the Genro—Marquis, now Prince Saionji, virtually forced the hand of his fellow Elder Statesman on whose recommendation to the Emperor Count Terauchi's successor would be appointed. In 1920 he let the opposition party shout that the people of Japan wanted universal suffrage until that became the one dominant issue, then called their bluff by dissolving the Diet and appealing to the people. In the election which followed he secured a materially strengthened backing in the House of Representatives. But more significant is the fact that by his action he went far to establish firmly the principles that the final decision on vital national issues must be made by the people, and that the Government must rest on a majority in the elected House.

Hara and Siberia.

At various times Mr. Hara made promises—as to the withdrawal of troops from Siberia, for example—which in all probability he did not expect would be kept, but which did much to create antagonism against the militarists who prevented their fulfillment. In so doing he caused Japan's reputation abroad to suffer but he dealt telling blows for liberalism at home.

Hara is gone. Who will be the next Premier is not yet known. But in the three years he held that office he so changed the political conditions of his country that a man of the old type cannot be chosen.

The fight for liberalism will go on in Japan until it is won—a fight which in a real sense is between one set of patriots and another, between one group of men who have caught a newer vision and another of those who look on life through eyes whose focus was fixed a generation and more ago.

The Manchester Guardian

Nr. 23.507

HOW MR. HARA DIED.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF HIS
SUCCESSOR.

(From our Correspondent in Japan.)

One of the first remarks heard when the Premier of Japan, Hara Kei, or Hara Takashi (the Chinese character may be read either way), fell to an assassin's knife was that it was strange that the only two Premiers who have had one-character names, both personal and surnames, should have been stabbed to death at railway stations. The other ill-fated bearer of a concise name was Prince Ito, who was murdered at Harbin station by a fanatical Korean. (Perhaps it was this coincidence which caused the first reports to declare that the murderer was a Korean.)

If this remark seems trifling and irrelevant on a tragic occasion, what are we to think of the account of how the murder itself came to be committed? The murderer was a young pointsman of nineteen, who was in the habit of discussing politics with the assistant stationmaster with the desperate seriousness of youth. Naturally they were often "agin the Government." The pointsman one day was extolling the great national institution of *harakiri* (*hara*, belly, and *kiri*, to cut). The stationmaster contemptuously said, "Those who talk of *harakiri* never do it." "But I will," said the pointsman, and the next that was heard of him was that he had stabbed, not his own *hara*, but Mr. Hara (whose name is written with quite a different character, meaning a plain or moor). Nordau's "Degeneration" is a discredited book to-day, but he discusses the influence of plays upon words on weak minds in a manner that suggests that this foolish pun may have actually contributed essentially to the tragedy.

Mr. Hara on the fatal night of Friday, November 4, was just entering the platform at Tokio station when the murderer thrust himself through the crowd and plunged his knife into his body with such fatal accuracy that the point penetrated his heart, and he died without a word or cry. He was taken straight into the stationmaster's room, and, when it was found that life was extinct, was placed again in his car and taken to his house. It was a couple of hours before the death was announced, in order that there should be time for the Emperor to grant the customary deathbed promotions without their being wholly posthumous. By nine o'clock the news was being distributed broadcast by "extras" in the most distant towns, having been transmitted, as all news in Japan is, by telephone. The next morning's papers displayed large illustrations concerning the dead Premier and articles on the murder. And then an order was sent round by the police that no mention of the assassination was to be made. It is to be feared that few papers strictly obeyed this injunction, even though it had been robbed of nine-tenths of its harmfulness by

arriving several hours too late—they mostly took the chance of a fine. But the embargo was removed the next morning.

Mr. Hara's Position.

The news, in spite of the irrelevant trifling with words already referred to, was a great shock to Japan. Mr. Hara had for some time been in the position of Mr. Lloyd George in England. There were many of those who liked him least and yet said, "But who else is there?" Mr. Hara is commonly referred to as "the great commoner," and it seems to have been a calculated pose with him. For not only did he always refuse titles during his lifetime, but he left instructions in his will that they were not to be accepted as deathbed or posthumous honours.

It would be difficult to describe the late Premier's principles, for he was famous even in a political school run on purely bureaucratic lines as an arch-opportunist. It was said that he seldom made a suggestion or took other action than to cope with difficulties as they presented themselves. He was a man of determined will and of commanding presence—hard, cold, and unemotional. He ruled his subordinates with a rod of iron, but was generous and appreciative, and, like the late Prince Ito not in his end alone, he let others furnish their nests while indifferent to money himself. He always professed the utmost readiness to withdraw from Siberia and Shantung, but never made any move in either direction, and it must remain a question, perhaps even to his intimates, how far he was a willing supporter of the militarist party, to whose demands he had acceded and to whose dictation he had submitted in greater measure than his seemingly weaker predecessors.

A Masterful Bureaucrat.

Simply as a civilian and a commoner, Mr. Hara passed for a democrat abroad. But he was much more of the bureaucrat. He was an inflexible opponent of the granting of the franchise to all male adults—a demand very vigorously pressed of late, and he affirmed quite openly his belief in the virtues of the "class system" and his conviction of the inadvisability of allowing liberty of thought. However, he may have believed that only fools contested for forms of government, and that good administration was the one thing needful. Perhaps it was for want of principle that he did not achieve it. During his three years of office—an exceptionally long time for a Japanese Premier—official corruption increased to an unprecedented degree. It is true, large plans have been prepared and sanctioned for "town planning," but they are all matters for the future—never, apparently, for the present. Nevertheless, it was generally believed of Mr. Hara that there was nobody else who could carry on as he did. The Cabinet was ready to fly to pieces at any moment, but a few words from him would calm the fiercest storm. The next Premier must be as masterful as Hara to hold the team under control, and he must be as subservient as Hara to the General Staff, and as clever in negotiating with them. It needs a man of many parts for that.

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Hamburgisches
Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv

Signatur

Datum

1922

Ostasiatische Rundschau (Berlin)

Nr. 2

Das Besitztum des ermordeten Ministerpräsidenten Hara ist von den Hinterbliebenen seiner Vaterstadt Morioka (Hauptstadt des Regierungsbezirks Iwate im Norden der Insel Hondo) geschenkt worden. Es wird in einen öffentlichen Park verwandelt, in dem ein Denkmal des toten Staatsmannes und eine Volksbibliothek errichtet werden sollen.